

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 EUR-12 ACDA-12 /107 W
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R 041100Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8691
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 05284

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CH, PK, US, AF, IN, NATO
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH CHINESE AMBASSADOR

1. CHINESE AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED TO TEHRAN AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS IN CHINA (WITH A WIFE WHO WEARS WESTERN CLOTHES), BRACED ME AT A RECEPTION JUNE 1 FOR HAVING "LOST AFGHANISTAN". I COUNTERED WITH MY CONDOLENCE AT CHINESE "LOSS OF VIETNAM" AND OFFERED TECHNICAL ADVICE ON EVACUATION FROM THAT COUNTRY. HAVING THUS DISPOSED OF OUR RITUAL BELLY-LAUGHS, WE TURNED TO DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL SITUATION FOLLOWING KABUL COUP.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN. HE SAID CHINA COULD NOT PROVIDE MUCH ASSISTANCE AND "COULD ONLY PRAY". HE FELT U.S., IRAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA NEEDED TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN. I SAID PAKISTANIS SOMETIMES MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO ASSIST THEM AND CHINA COULD PERHAPS PERSUADE PAKISTAN LEADERS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE REALISTIC.

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3. THIS LED TO DISCUSSION OF INDIAN-PAKISTAN RELATIONS. CHINESE AMBASSADOR SAID HIS GOVERNMENT FELT INDIA STILL HAD DESIGNS ON PAKISTAN AND WOULD FAVOR FURTHER DISMEMBERMENT. I SAID WE DOUBTED THIS AND FELT INDIA HAD PLENTY OF DOMESTIC PREOCCUPATIONS. CHINESE PERSISTED IN CONTRARY VIEW.

4. IN CLOSING, HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S

RECENT STATEMENTS AT NATO SUMMIT. HE SAID CHINA SHARED
VIEW THAT NATO ALLIANCE MUST BE CONCERNED WITH EVENTS OUTSIDE
IMMEDIATE EUROPEAN THEATER WHICH COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT
ON ALLIANCE.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FAR MORE CONCRETE DISCUSSION THAN MY
CHINESE COLLEAGUE USUALLY PERMITS HIMSELF. HE HAS PREVIOUSLY
CONFINED HIMSELF TO PLATITUDES. IT MAY MERELY REPRESENT RECENT
TOUCH WITH AUTHORITY IN PEKING, OR IT COULD MEAN GREATER
CHINESE WILLINGNESS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH U.S.
SULLIVAN

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